

I need your helpful suggestions. I have written much in opposition to our present laws against "obscene literature." These objections have largely been based upon the uncertainty of the statute which does not furnish any test by which to determine what is obscene and what not. The judicial legislation on the subject of "tests" is no better, because these are mutually contradictory and always leave it to the whim or caprice of juries or judges to determine.

BLUE GRASS BLADE

Published at Lexington, Kentucky, Every Sunday.

Founded 1884, and edited by Charles Clifton Moore up to his death, February 7, 1906.

JAMES E. HUGHES, Editor and Publisher
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By mail, postpaid, \$3.00 per year, in advance.
Five new subscribers sent with one remittance at \$1.00 per year each.
Trial subscription, 15 cents per month.
All foreign subscription, postpaid, \$2.00 per year.

ADVERTISING RATES

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS of whatsoever character accepted will be published at the rate of \$1.00 per inch per month, unless by special contract, when other and better rates will be quoted upon application. The publishers have the right to reject any and all advertisements offered.

GENERAL BUSINESS RULES

ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Blade will be discontinued at the expiration of the term for which the subscription has been paid up in advance.
MAKE ALL money orders, drafts, checks, etc., payable to JAMES E. HUGHES, Lexington, Ky., as they will facilitate collection.

SHOULD ANY SUBSCRIBER change his or her address, advise this office, giving both old and new, and the Blade will be sent to the new address, as desired.

THE OFFICE of publication of the Blade is at 126-128 North Limestone Street, Lexington, Kentucky, to which all Free thinkers will be given a hearty welcome.

THE BLADE is entered at the Postoffice, at Lexington, Kentucky, as second class mailing matter.
ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BLUE GRASS BLADE, P. O. Box 393, Lexington, Ky.
Address slip on the paper will show subscribers the date of expiration of subscription. Back numbers, or numbers omitted will be sent, if asked for, upon receipt of cash in case of discontinuance.

Honesty is a great institution.

Only live stock actually needs watering.

Few photographers take people for what they are worth.

Some married people have nothing in common but a salary.

The difference is between questionable habits and being questioned.

The world is full of religions but not one was founded on science.

Virgin born gods always happen in another country in another age.

According to press reports the preachers are keeping the old game.

There isn't a corner lot in heaven that could be sold for spot cash.

The world is simply waiting for the man who can tell it what to do next.

Orthodoxy robs humanity of happiness here and deludes it with a fake of something hereafter.

Religion, if taught without authority, cannot do much harm, but the injury comes when it seeks to establish itself in our daily lives by the aid of legislation and brute force.

The Bible, though useful in some respects, especially as marking the era of decadent Christian theology, should be kept under lock and key unless thoroughly expurgated and fumigated. In its pages may be found a little of what men call morality but take as a whole it contains the most degrading obscenity that was ever conceived in the brain of man. Is it not strange that some men and women refuse to read it with their eyes open and their minds willing to discriminate between the good and the bad, the true and the false?

Our issue will be up to date in a few days. The opportunity we have worked for is at hand. This does not mean that our finances are in any better shape but that the dull season in our line is upon us and we propose now to spend the time in rushing the Blade up to its proper date. We are grateful to our uncomplaining friends for they have seemed to thoroughly understand the situation. Our work is yet a labor of love but we hope to reach better results by persistent effort.

With our friends at work in our behalf, each trying to build the circulation of the Blade, we ought to succeed far better than we are now doing. The many can help the one with but little effort but the one can render small service when it has to be distributed continent wide.

The church is failing. Its political and spiritual power is now almost a thing of the past. Science is steadily mounting to its legitimate throne in the world of intellect whereon it shall sit and bear rule over all the departments of human life and activity.

Even as the enemies of Free thought do not spare their denunciations of the men and women engaged in its advocacy, the friends of the movement can well afford to sing their praises all the louder and longer. Besides it gives a fair amount of encouragement and plenty of cheer is needed in the task of spreading enlightenment and progress.

Why should men quarrel about religious faiths? Cults and creeds have swayed the minds of untold millions only to fall into disrepute and decay and Christianity, in all its phases, is doomed to be swept by the broom of Time into the world's great rubbish

heap, passing into the tomb of history and taking its traditions and legends into utter forgetfulness.

SHALL WE PUT OUR TRUST

IN GOD OR IN MAN

"The making of man was the crowning glory of god."

The above statement was made by a Lexington preacher, as reported in the local papers and we are further informed that he added thereto by saying:

"Our greatest error is that we trust too little in god and too much in poor, weak humanity."

From a purely church standpoint the thoughts here suggested may be all right, and they doubtless are. From an ethical and practical point of view they are simply pretty passages without use or meaning, altogether contrary to human experience.

According to the way we have been taught the making of man was a mistake and that creation was not complete until Jehovah had made woman. As woman was made last and made for the purpose of correcting a previous error her creation must have been the crowning glory, if any glory is coming from that direction. God made man perfect, that is, as god understands perfection. In a little while god found that man was not perfect, that something was missing. A mistake had been made somewhere. Some kind of a correction was necessary. Man was not an actual necessity for god had simply created him to please a passing fancy. The discovery was made that man was alone, which was not good for him, in spite of god's wishes to the contrary, hence, to fill up the gap and complete the creative work, woman was made and this was the end, the crown of all. If the editor of the Blade had the power to create a beautiful woman he would not waste much of his time making man.

Reverting to Ingersoll we learn, and let it be understood many valuable lessons have been learned at his hands, that the creation of an honest god was the noblest work of man, but as we have yet failed to find a solitary god who could consistently boast of that qualification, man has little glory to boast of. Every god is man made. There were no gods until man started in the business. It was an unhappy day when the industry took root. Far better for the race had the god making factories been put in the hands of celestial receivers before any of the products were half finished. So after all it is a mere question of individual opinion but if god made man he turned out a far better job than that did man when he began making gods.

And so we are told that we trust god too little and trust man too much. This is just like Christianity. It has so little confidence in humanity that it would advise a general condition of skepticism towards each other, accentuated by doubt. Were this same preacher interfering with pain on the part of sick or diseased, he would have greater confidence in his restoration to health if attended by a doctor of medicine than he would have if he were ministered unto by a doctor of divinity. We rehash preachers in mid-ocean he would have greater confidence in getting back to land could he obtain a seat in some lifeboat made by the hand of man than if he put all his trust in god. Did he want to negotiate a loan he would find his fellow man more capable and willing to aid him than the very god he preaches about. Why god is incapable of supporting the very churches erected in his name and if this same preacher had no confidence that man would contribute of their means towards its maintenance the edifice would soon crumble and decay. In this respect it is observed that the preacher has far greater confidence in the collections than he has in the loving mercy and charity of god.

The truth is that under the Christian religion even preachers will put their trust alone in god as a matter of indulgent vocabulary, but they make all others pay spot cash. As a matter of fact god has not the slightest to do with our human economy. Science ignores god. Philosophy knows him not. Future history is being written without him altogether. God cuts no figures in business and the marts of trade make no allowance for him. Agriculture continues with absolute indifference regarding him and god is never recognized as a member of the family. We want less of god and more of man, less of church and more of the home, less Christianity and more humanity. Learn to trust each other and refuse to trust god for a cent. Trust in god means more cash for the preachers and this is the only capable interpretation of the subject. Trust in god is for the glory of the person alone. To put your trust in humanity makes for the glory and upbuilding of the race and this can go on without god and without his representatives.

DEAD OR DYING.

"The king is dead, long live the king."

"It was the cry of a partizan, a courtier,

Now Christianity is dying, it will soon be dead and it will be incapable of living.

The latter is the verdict of a large class of people among whom may be found a liberal sprinkling of the advocates of Romanism who foresee in the trend of modern events the downfall of the church of Christ.

Rationalists have long held to such a view because they knew that in the natural order of things it must die. Christianity must die as all preceding religions died before it. Another form of religion will take its place but it will be a better religion, a purer religion than that now prevailing in Christendom as each succeeding religion has invariably shown some improvement upon its predecessors.

In many notable cases, especially among that

party in Europe known as the Neo-Catholics a party which recently wrung from the Vatican a bitter and vindictive reproach, the death of Christianity is actually announced and we are compelled to admit that if such a condition be true as regards Europe the people in that continent are far in advance of the American people.

There can be no doubt that Christianity is now

passing through a series of crises which every organism is compelled to endure. Birth, growth, maturity, decay and death. These are the stages through which all and everything must pass. The Christian church has passed the full zenith of its power. It is now on the big road downward. Its policy is now to try and understand the forces that antagonize, to attempt a conciliation, and by some sort of truce, or compromise, she hopes to continue her mission of guilt for a season longer. One of the greatest errors committed by the church was her opposition of scientific truth. The church leaders and religious teachers had absolutely failed to appreciate the revolution that had been wrought so forcibly by science in our conceptions of truth and they are now facing the natural and inevitable consequences. The church failed to understand, it could not understand, that a truth still remained a truth in spite of the religious misconceptions, abuses and opposition. Coercion was resorted to instead of argument. The battering rams of reason and logic were then hurled against her doors and only ruin now confronts her.

It is a well known fact that the church was never granted control over the affairs of man by divine ordinance. Whatever power or influence the church enjoyed was won by intrigue and established by the mere circumstance of politics. As a result of this every iota of Christian worship was resolved into a cold formalism, destitute of feeling or sentiment. The ignorant was awed thereby and their minds still held captive at the fount of tyranny. The intelligent saw through it, revolted against it and cut loose from the church altogether. The latter became the living forces of the time. From them have come the few liberties we still enjoy but these had to be wrested from the reluctant hands of tyrants.

The Blade perceives the plain drift of modern thought. It is towards a purely rationalistic religion, if it may be called by such a name. In spite of our liberalism, our freethought, many still cling to the customs and forms employed by the orthodox church and many attempts have been made to organize a Free thought party under the name of church, with church forms, even to the extent of taking up a collection. This may be an evidence of the extent to which superstition and formula can continue to influence the human mind for long years after that mind imagines itself to be entirely free from it. Another element wants nothing pertaining to the church or clergy to be made a part of our organized work. These indicate mere differences of opinion, but the principal question is whether or not the climax will find us ready to seize the opportunity of substituting a Free thought religion for the religion of Christ. Should Christianity be met with immediate destruction and eradication it does not follow that another system must supplant it. Destroy error and truth becomes sufficiently manifest. The people want nothing but truth. If a place of common meeting is desired, a place where many can congregate for instruction, means must be taken to supply the want, but only truth should be promulgated therein.

In any event the letter addressed to the Pope by the Neo-Catholics, resenting the reference made to them as being the "sappers and miners" of the church, and the Blade hopes that the day of the world's regeneration may not be much longer delayed.

So it comes that Christianity is dead, but we are unwilling to respond for it a longer life.

If Christianity is dead it ought to be and we can each contribute to that end. We all know it is dying and it were better to administer an anesthetic to alleviate the pain that comes with death.

ANOTHER BLOW AT THE CHURCH.

Upon the legal presumption that what is good law in one part of a nation, country, or an empire, it must also be good in any part, the French republic has extended its religious associations law, better known as the separation law, into some of her dependent colonies and it is now reported that the secularization of education by the home government has exercised such an influence upon her independent colonies, that one of the most important, that of Madagascar, has issued a decree that no more educational work can be carried on by the name of the church, by the church and under the influence of the church. The same law provides that no religious society shall be recognized as having anything to do with education and that all teachers must make application to the government for permission to carry on schools.

So it is that one by one the fortresses of the Christian faith are being shattered the world over. One by one her walls are falling. One by one her foundations are being removed and in a little while it will be powerless for naught save to maintain its own impotence and is even now fast sinking into mental and physical decrepitude.

According to all reports on the subject the backers and leaders of the church in French Madagascar begged for an extension of time for six months before enforcing the law in all its provisions, but so firm was the government in this undertaking that the request was refused point blank and with this step the most important of all the privileges ever enjoyed by any religious faith has been destroyed, or, in other words, taken from

Of all the religious systems known to mankind

none has ever been so doggedly persistent in its efforts to absolutely control education as that passing muster under the name of Christ. Without argument or reason, without excuse or explanation, it has diligently and universally sought to install religious poison into the minds of innocent children upon the well grounded hypothesis that once implanted in the mind of childhood the poison would grow and develop and that child grow up an adherent of the faith thus taught. Prayers and the singing of hymns, bible readings and recitation of creeds, have all been injected into the school curriculum and these were bound to have some effect upon the minds of the children being taught. We have previously stated that the mind of a necessary to childhood. They could not understand god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were not allowed to forget or become indifferent to the faith. They were terrorized by threats of punishment dire from an angry and unforgiving god should they cease to sing his praise, cease to worship him, or pray to him. Argument was unnecessary to know that your writings will remain for life, provided you take sufficient care that they are not erased before they are dry. Priest and child is just like a blank sheet of paper and you was up to a few years ago, all the schools in Christendom were under the influence of clergy, religious instructions were given to the children every day and precautions taken that the children were

BRAVE MEN THESE PRIESTS

Dared to Send a Letter of Protest
To the Vatican If They Did
Not Sign Their Names.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTER
THAT DREW POPE'S FIRE.

(By Henrik Ibsen)

With unusual interest I read an editorial in the Blade of recent date commenting upon the "open letter" addressed to the Pope of Rome by a number of the Catholic clergy in Italy. This was a bold step for them to take. It is observed, however, that while it is assumed that five members of the clergy drew up and sent the famous document to the Vatican they could not find courage enough to subscribe their names to it and simply left blank lines to indicate the number joining in the misadventure.

Only a few fragments of that letter have yet been given to the press for publication, but from what has been published it is certain that the letter was a strong one, calculated to work the Pope into a religious frenzy. In this it was successful for it brought forth a scornful reply, a bitter castigation, a stern rebuke, strong enough to draw forth comment from the Blade's editor.

Having, formerly, been a Roman Catholic worshipper, learning of my error in time to pull from under the fearful weight, I can appreciate the failure of those Catholic priests to sign their names to the document. It might have proved fatal to them if it were, in Italy where the church is in a constant turmoil, and where every body and everything that does not strictly belong to it and affiliate with it. We must not condemn them for lack of courage, as the mere fact that they wrote the letter at all, and after writing it daring to send it to the Pope, all the circumstances considered, stamps them as a brave set of men. Their courage may be seen from the following few paragraphs which I have been able to secure from different American publications and now send to you:

"And it is because she has not tried to understand them that she is losing her hold upon the people. Not only have men withdrawn from the church, but she herself has come to be considered as the great obstacle to the freedom and happiness of peoples, the priest to be regarded as an obscurantist. During the last Gospel and Christianity to be treated as expressions of civilization which is obsolete because it is unable to see the ideals of liberty, justice, and peace which have been striving to be masses. This feeling has filtered down from the university to the workshop, from the great city population to the inhabitants of the country districts. And even for the minority which has remained faithful to the church, Christianity is rather the mere cold observance of traditional formulas and precepts than the directing force of their life.

"Some are already announcing the death of Christianity. They are not of their number. They believe that Christianity is passing through one of those crises which an organism has sometimes to endure. In which it purifies itself of elements heterogeneous and inimical to its nature, and from which it emerges to a more vigorous life. It was in this belief that, in response to the call of the Pope, they had set themselves to the work of renewal. But such a task was not to be lightly undertaken. There was necessary for its accomplishment a frank recognition of the causes of the crises. A frank and loyal sincerity must be the guide of all our research, and our work would be contrary to the divine Spirit, which is the spirit of truth, if it were not guided by the desire of objective truth. It will not do to adopt the usual clerical evaluation that the masses reject religion because of the duties it imposes upon them, or of the rigorous character of its moral code, or even because of the intellectual difficulty of accepting its dogmas. The real reasons are more fundamental. They are that the church has adopted an attitude toward democracy and science which has made her justly suspected by both these forces. In France the church has obstinately allied herself with the monarch, the archbishop and aristocratic privilege in order to hamper and, if possible, to overthrow the Republic. In Italy she consistently resisted the aspirations of the people toward national unity, and since their nation was drawn into a self-centered silence and inaction. If she is to conciliate and inspire the democracy, she must

bring herself into line with its ideals. She must not only abandon her alliance with the shrunken remnants of privilege among democratic peoples, but also transform and purify the form of her own government so tenaciously monopolized and absolutely abandoned to the pleasure and pleasure of provincial autonomy among her bishops, recognize more freely the religious action of the laity, and secure more equitable tests in the selection of her central executive bodies, providing for a fuller representation of foreign nations upon that body."

"The progress of the positive, experimental sciences has demonstrated the insufficiency of every metaphysical explanation of the universe. The historical and psychological methods of establishing truth, partial as they are and must be, have superseded elaborate and logic really antecedently given in certain metaphysical abstractions. For minds trained in the new methods the traditional form of Christian apologetics is meaningless. The conceptions of God, of revelation, of the church, of dogma can no longer be imposed from without by means of reasoned argument. The soul must through its own free and vital action seize the reality which underlies these conceptions, must find reasons for them, and learn their worth through the impulse of its own religious experience related with the expression of the human spirit throughout the ages.... Criticism has, therefore, a positive religious value, since it helps us to distinguish between what is moral and religious truth in the Bible and what is mere explanation and unfolding of it, and thus succeeds in preserving the real truth, liberating, and inspiration of the Bible."

"To-day it is considered a crime to utter a word of disapproval either of the conduct of ecclesiastical government or of the unworthy methods (condotta disonesta) of those who represent it. Yet meanwhile, both here and in Rome and outside it, reviews and journals which breathe all the fanatical spirit of Islam are allowed to bestow upon us the most shameful titles and accuse us of the most loathsome infamies in spite of the clerical dress which many of us wear, and far from unworthily."

"To prevent such errors, the preamble says, the Pope has ordered a congregation of inquiry to note and report the principal errors, and with his approbation sixty-five propositions are condemned. These include the following:

"Divine inspiration does not guarantee all and every part of the Holy Scriptures against error.
"The resurrection of the Savior is not a historical fact, but is purely supernatural. It can neither be demonstrated nor is it demonstrable.
"The Catholic Church became the head of all churches not by divine ordinance, but by purely political circumstances.
"The church is the enemy of natural and theological sciences.
"The Christian doctrine is first Judaea, then Pauline, then Hellenic, then universal.
"The principles of the Apostle's Creed had not the same significance to the primitive Christians as they have to the Christians of the present time."

DEATH OF A VALUED WORKER

Joseph House Dies at Hagerstown, Md. Was a Rationalist in Belief

Friend Hughes: On Monday, July 22, 1907, an old reader of the Blade, Joseph House died at Hagerstown, aged 68 years. He was an ex-pertinent, a fine mechanic and a well read man having himself constructed a 6 foot telescope, himself then, making it so powerful as to plainly show the rings on Saturn and the craters on the moon's surface. He was unmarried, living alone with his two maiden sisters, who are near his own age and still survive. He served through the civil war in a Union regiment from the state of Missouri, and was a good neighbor and friend, well liked by all who knew him. He was a thorough rationalist and greatly enjoyed reading the Blade. The old rationalists here are passing away and are seen comparatively few young ones to fill their place, although Christians generally have been considerably liberalized in the past twenty years, yet evolution's way is slow but sure. D. WEBSTER GROH, Hagerstown, Md.

DEBATE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Just out, debate on the Bible and Evolution, by A. A. Snow and U. G. Wilkerson. 16 pages, \$4.00. Traveler, New Hope, Ark.

PESSIMISM FOOLISH PARADISE

We all Want Facts and Must be Bound by them when Fully Demonstrated.

DOES IT APPLY TO MATERIALISM

(By Channing Severance.)

It has been said by some writer, that materialism logically leads to pessimism. Possibly this may be true, but so many other things do likewise, the idea has no disturbing force with materialists. If pessimism is a fact we want it, for our business is to collect facts. We object to living in a fools paradise because it offers fleeting attractions and if we are to be honest with ourselves, delusions are not wanted. But the materialist has no charge made is hard to see, for unless one is thinking about which no existence in a spirit world, another one knows anything about materialism has no gloomy features. If people wish to believe in a world where they cannot if they accept materialism, as that shuts them out, but if beliefs are to be made the basis of happiness regardless of facts and realities, then the man who can construct the most fascinating belief has access to the greatest amount of happiness. But that is kind really desirable when we reflect on the uncertainty of beliefs, and how they are often destroyed by knowledge. If there is no other conscious existence for human beings besides this one can we not adopt what seems to that fact and enjoy what pleasure the life we are now living gives to us? It would seem so; for if looking into the future and picturing to ourselves a return to the unconscious elements from which we have lately emerged, is so destructive to happiness, why not withdraw the vision and occupy ourselves with the realities of the present. Sensible people will do so, for they know the folly of bemoaning the said materialism insures pessimism gets his assertion accepted if he can. Now, what is pessimism, that so many shy at the word, and condemn the man who says: I am a pessimist. Pessimism defines the belief and the views of the man who says; the condition under which we exist are not right or satisfactory in making way for the world full of misery and unhappiness, and, as Napoleon III once said, "to multitudes of the human family existence cannot be deemed a blessing." The pessimist is a practical man dealing with facts, not with theories. He is a visionary cherishing ideals that do not exist and never did. The pessimist is a natural born kicker against wrong and injustice, he sees the evils that exist, and they are everywhere, and he hesitates to say so. The optimist is one of those "whatever is, is best" people and willfully shuts his eyes to stubborn facts or ignores them, dwelling on the pleasant phases of life. The optimist has expressed his thinking man in these words: "If we could see all the suffering in the world it would drive us insane." If we read history we find the past has been full of crime and cruelty; and if we look about us today and read the news on modern events, we find much to complain of and to protest against, so I throw out these words of Voltaire for reflection by Mr. Optimist: "Please explain how everything is for the best, for I do not understand it." Do you mean that every one is well and possesses the means of living—that nobody suffers?

No man can answer these three questions with the word yes, for facts are everywhere, and we encounter them everywhere; and here is another thought for those people who, bring themselves situated in pleasant places, prate about optimism. If whatever is, is best, why seek to change anything or make improvements? We know that discontent is universal and the evidence of this fact is seen in men's actions regardless of speech, for in spite of the lovely world they profess to see and the fact that it turns out to be otherwise, and improve. If whatever is, is best how can it be made better? Good, better, best is the way we define things, and if things are already what we let them be as they are. If diseases are suffered from, why are such strenuous efforts made to remove and annihilate them. If consumption, diphtheria, fevers, small pox, rheumatism, deafness, blindness, insanity, crime and all the other evils are good things, why are they feared and shunned and regarded as evils? If whatever is, is best how can there be any evils? Yet Optimist while going into raptures over life and its enjoyments is never loath in trying to escape disease, suffering and misery, which he blames the pessimist for talking about. The pessimist does not create these things; they exist, and he refuses to ignore facts to juggle with ideals.

Whether acceptable or disagreeable they must be accepted, and while we may conjure up ideals that are pleasing to the mind as objects of contemplation, what we encounter in the daily experiences of life is the real basis of our joys and sorrows. Life is not a dream, for every form of conscious, sentient existence, and when the struggle to prolong it stops, the end is never far off. One form of life lives upon some other from the lowest gradation to the highest, and the survival of the fittest is nature's law which controls all things and is never suspended from action. Force rules the world in all departments of being, and the secret of success in life is to get and control power in some form. Kind souls are easily expressed, but forced founded in selfishness runs and moves the world. In all departments of society money is the mightiest force that does ever exist, and with it comes a train of evils that no power is competent to deal with, as far as that word goes when applied to human affairs, and for this reason the whole world is money mad and devoting every energy to obtain it. Every business gradation and profession has its power in view, and life is one grand pandemonium in consequence. Between natural and artificial evils, mortal man walks downward to the tomb, filled with unrest, discontent and uncertainty. If truth be told, pessimism is well founded in facts and the man who philosophizes that things are what we know this, hence, if we are honest, will not accept it. Only by being a superficial thinker can one be an optimist, and that is why our old friend Platon asserted that in much wisdom is much sorrow, for thought and knowledge are continually displacing life and putting its face to face with stern realities.

ADDRESSES NEW YORK BANKER

Who made reply to the Faddists' Letter on the Subject of Child Labor. Published in Blade

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE SAME SUBJECT

(By D. Webster Groh)

Many, many hearty thanks for your publishing June 9, through Stella Hardin's letter, that (unfortunately) was sent to New York banker's 'dilettante' to 'Child Idleness' faddists Mrs. William D. Wald, of New York.

As a 50 year old teacher, farmer and business man generally my experience has been the smallest possible to emphatically endorse all that sensible, successful, intelligent banker says about child industry. Industry develops the muscles, quickens the heart-beat, accelerates the arterial blood-flow, awakens "voluntaries" in the brain, brightens the intellect, and more rapidly carries, to every part of a child's anatomy, the elements needed for growth, development and repair.

Industry blesses the worker with health, strength, ability, intellect and success and the whole world with its bountiful products. The muscles, nerves brain and intellect of every animal—man included—have evolved or developed to present conditions through millions of years of ancestral activity, exercise, industry—labor—which surrounding conditions necessitated, and suddenly ceasing this industrial exercise and living unemployed—hour after hour, day after day, as disastrous as human anatomy and intellect as the sudden derailing of a high-speed, heavy-motement railroad train—filling our hospitals and insane asylums with thousands of human wrecks, and multiplying the demand for doctors, drugs and patent medicine nostrums a thousand fold.

While mere play-exercise benefits only the body's muscles, thereby developing health and indolence, wealth-producing industry benefits both the muscles, his pocket book and the world in general by his beneficent product and his worthy example. Confiding pupils in class, overbearing illiterate, over-crowded breath-behaved, contagion-soaked school-rooms—so sedentarily jostled over difficult lessons as to even postpone nature's imperative calls until dismissed—hour after hour, day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, from 6 to 16, 18 and 20 years of age—just when the young growing develops body most need exercise, physical culture, sunshine and pure, out door open air—is surely much more injurious, than moderate labor could ever possibly be, even if reasonable labor ever at all in school, which, to a normally, healthy worker, is a healthy, healthy, healthy exercise. Let many people thoughtlessly endorse the faddists who would take children away from healthful, invigorating, exercise, moderate work, and confine them sedentally in

unsanitary schools until they eventually graduate more dyspeptic, nervous, diseased, spectacled, wrecks of humanity, instead the strong sturdy healthy robust, mainly being proper destiny. The miracle of birth equals the mystery of death. Through the darkness of doubt we can only grope and guess.

The sum of present knowledge is a little thing. The wisest is he who is most impressed with his infinite lack of understanding. Not much beyond the limited range of our crude and feeble reason. All about us are invisible influences for which science has not yet even suggested a name.

It was this awesome aspect of the unknown that oppressed the mighty heart of Ingersoll when, standing beside the open grave of a child, he said: Every coffin asks us "Whence? and every cradle whispers "Whither?" The poor barbarian, weeping above his dead, can answer these questions just as well as the robed priest of the most authentic creed.

Again, in the same spirit of human helplessness, the body of a beloved friend he spoke these words: We question, but there is no reply. Out of the wide waste seas there drifts no spar. Over the desert of death the sphinx gazes forever, but never speaks.

The miracle of thought we can not understand. The mystery of life and death we can world has never been explained. The gold bridge of life from gloom to the cross is a shadowy rest. Beyond this we do not know. Fate is speechless, destiny is dumb, and the secret of the future has never yet been told.

What can we say of death? Where they have come the question can not go, and from these revelation has not come. But let us believe that over the cradle Nature bends and smiles, and lovingly above the dead in benediction holds her outstretched hands. At another time, when spent in its fruitless struggles with the sovereign secret, these words—the honest confession of a hopeless ignorance—were wrung from his long inquiring lips: "I asked the question of the question of origin and destiny are beyond the grasp of the human mind. We can see a certain distance; beyond that everything is indistinct; and beyond the indistinct is the unseen. In the presence of the mysterious—and everything is a mystery, so far as origin, destiny and nature are concerned—the intelligent, honest man is compelled to say: 'I do not know.'"

In the great majority of few truths, like stars shining on forever—and from the brain of man a few more struggling gleams of light—a few momentary sparks. * * *

Take a grain of sand, reduce it to particles, the smallest possible particle, look at it with a microscope, contemplate its every part for days, and it will remain the citadel of a secret—an impregnable fortress. The great biologists, physiologists and scientists in serried ranks against it, let them attack on every side with all the arts and arms of thought and force. The citadel does not fall. Over the battlement flows the flag, and the enormous secret smiles at the baffled hosts.

Life—the wondrous fact of earthly existence—was to Ingersoll the largest of all secrets, and of it he said: "We live on an atom called Earth, and what we know of the infinite is almost infinitely limited. * * * Life is a shadow, strange and winding road on which we travel for a little while, and then we stop—just from the cradle, with its lullaby of love, to the low and quiet wayside inn, where all at last must sleep and where the only salutation is—"Good night."

To me it is incomprehensible that any person both honest and intelligent can be either an orthodox religionist or an absolute atheist. Agnosticism seems the only rational ground. Facts not faith, are the only proof. Neither superstition nor skepticism can demonstrate or disprove. In the absence of conclusive evidence it is folly to affirm or deny. Until exact truth, which is an ultimate, is attained, the only consistent answer to the eternal question is: "I do not know." But despite all doubts as to whether or not, or theorize, whatever we may wish or believe or hope or fear, the human mind in all its excursions of exploration must finally fall against the stone wall of inexorable ignorance with a shock and a recoil, and the culture, strong as beats against the unyielding cliff of granite. But with all these limitations it is not foolish to feel that the Eternal Plan is working toward a Perfect Purpose, that at the Endless End lies the Light of Truth. Let me surely the part of philosophy to let the forces we do not understand work out the way to our understanding.

While reverent thinkers, with throb-

bing hearts, are seeking to read the everlasting riddle; while strenuous souls, disdaining all doubt, seek life and death; while earnest investigators, with sighs in their hearts, are willing with infinite problems; while all this is going on, with the inscrutable wonders of an unmeasured surely, the world is passing, above the temples and tombs of vanishing civilizations and forgotten races, the atheist delivers himself of his arrogant dictum.

A microbe beneath the Omnipotent microscope, an atom of an incalculable aggregation; feeble and futile in his foolish efforts—pitiful, puerile and wholly impotent in his finite ends; posing on a planet formed of stardust that has drifted from solar systems that swung through space countless eons before the morning stars gave their concert; the span of his ephemeral existence but a moment in the life of the megacron, the religiousist, disdaining all doubt, seeks life and death; while earnest investigators, with sighs in their hearts, are willing with infinite problems; while all this is going on, with the inscrutable wonders of an unmeasured surely, the world is passing, above the temples and tombs of vanishing civilizations and forgotten races, the atheist delivers himself of his arrogant dictum.

Christians, their hearts filled with the love of God and hate of their fellow-men, worshipping a Saviour who was only a man or merely a myth, with amazing egotism and cheerful ignorance complacently sang: "The heathen in his blindness

"Bows down to wood and stone,"—then send meekness missionaries to a people whose religion was hoary ere the cross was ever unveiled or the word of the church was ever written in blood, and from those teachings the best in the Christian system was appropriated.

As to the atheist, it is a question with me whether he is ever really in the quest of knowledge, or whether he is self with giving expressions to doubt and denial. But he has ever turned the searchlight into the hiding-places of Truth? Always an incompetent but never an impostor. Both the religiousist and the atheist are intellectual loafers. It is so much easier for one to believe and the other to blaspheme than for either to delve and discover. The atheist denies both and does not establish. Both are bigoted, narrow, intolerant. Each an egotist and worshiper Self in the names, respectively of Religion and Reason. They mistake conceit for conscience. He who says "I am not" is not a dogmatist than he who answers "It is so." Neither knows and both make false and foolish claims. It is useless to discuss these things. No argument ever advanced by an atheist has proved one of his propositions. No books written by a believer has substantiated a single statement set forth therein. Nothing can be known as yet. Before the smallest scrap of creation we can only stand with a futile question on quivering lips.

"What hope reveals
Mind tries to clasp,
But soon it reels
With broken grasp."

I do not denounce any man because he fails to take the truth. Mayhap we are all mistaken. Here's my hand to each and all, whether atheist or Christian, Jew or Gentile, who wishes to slay the shadows. I have suffered persecution at the hands of doubter and dogmatist alike. I find enough of narrowness on either side. Only from the independence of each for truth can I hope to receive charity for truth can the comfort of comradeship. And so I am willing to welcome any honest effort toward liberty and the light. I strike only at superstition. I strive for intellectual emancipation. I am rewarded for all my labors if I lay a single stone in the foundations of the Temple of Truth.

Faith may falter and hope may halt and lag behind; the sweet star of promise may go down in darkness, and the white waters for which the soul has thirsted may be spilled on the queenless sands of the desert of despair, but the way leads ever onward and upward, though the trail be thickly set with stones. Though paths may cross till the bewildered pilgrim cries out for comfort like one who is lost, let him look above and ever will he see a guiding lamp, like Bethlehem's beacon, set in the sky. A multiplicity of faiths may mingle until confusion comes upon his mind and into his heart, but unseen forces are ceaselessly sifting the false. Knowledge may slumber through the night of superstition, but the dawn shall drive away the darkness and in the end we shall come out from the chrysalis of every creed, fulwinded and free. Into the light of the living Truth.

In that time the ashes will be blown from every altar, to mingle with the dust into which have crumbled all of earth's forgotten fanes.

DON'T FAIL TO WRITE

(Continued from first page.)

mine guilty by personally created and ex post facto standards. No one with any decent conception of what is meant by law and liberty or the constitutional guarantees of the process of law can possibly endorse our present statutes upon this subject. If you do not agree then write me why not.

Assuming now that thus far we are in accord because you believe criminal laws should so plainly describe what is prohibited, that an ordinary man may know just what he must not do, or that for any other reason you believe our present laws upon the subject of obscene literature need changing, and suppose that it devolved upon you to prepare a new statute which in general terms would accurately describe such literature as you think should be penalized because of its obscenity, and whose descriptive test is to be so certain as to make it absolutely impossible to include anything else except what you condemn, then how would you describe the prohibited matter?

In one aspect this is equivalent to asking you by what general test you would have courts determine the existence, in a book or picture, of such obscenity as you think the law ought to punish.

To me it seems that any such description must be wholly written in terms of the sense perceived qualities of the book or picture and not in terms of its actual and special tendencies. If you do agree and believe that any kind of literature or art ought to be suppressed as to adults, then please write me, in conformity with the above requirements a statement of your tests of obscenity.

Remember now that the test must be so certain as to its meaning that all persons must reach the same conceivable book or picture. I may not be able to make a personal answer to all letter sent me but I desire your views upon the above matters, in the hope of acquiring a clearer view of the public opinion and also in the hope of receiving some suggestions to make my own vision more clear before writing my next article. If a stamp is added I will send you some printed article of mine relating to freedom.

Yours for Truth, Justice and Liberty.
THEODORE SCHROEDER,
Attorney for the Free Speech League,
63 East 50th Street,
New York City.

MEN SHOULD BE READY

Be Prepared to Hit the Right Spot and at the Right Time

(By Carl Schuler.)

Have you ever tried to fly a kite? If not, watch some little chap before you begin. You will get some pointers about the matter that will stand you in good stead, not only in the business of flying kites, but also in the more serious affairs of life. The kite is done. The tail is furnished with bits of paper or cloth to give the proper balance. The lad is out on some high point of land, watching. Watching? For what? Listen! "Here she comes! Get ready for it!"

Down there in the valley you hear a rushing sound. The trees bend before the wind. In a moment it will be here, get ready. And the lad does get ready. Before the breeze strikes the knoll his kite is face to the wind. Every nerve is tense with desire. Just at the right time he gives it a toss and away the beautiful thing soars to meet the sky. He was ready when the wind blew.

Many failures in this world come from trying to fly kites after the wind has reached its height and begun to die down. The man that tries that way may get his kite up half way and then see it drop helplessly to the earth. Discouraging, isn't it? Out West there are a good many land boys. Who are the men that make money? Do you know? Not the men who come late and buy land when the boom has reached the crest and begun to go down on the other side. Oh, no. It was the man who was on the spot early and was ready to sell when the price had climbed to the top and the late-comer put in an appearance.

Out in the western parts of this state a man had a thousand bushels of potatoes to sell one year. He thought he saw a chance to make some money out of the crop. They were bringing a good fair price, but he thought that wasn't just time to sell. He would wait till they were a little higher. And he did wait. The price began to go down. The breeze had spent its force and his kite was still in his hand waiting for the fresher gale. It did not come. He kept his potatoes till they went clear down to smash. Most of them he fed out to the cattle. Did it hurt? Ask him. He has some positive views on the subject now.

The time to fly kites is when the wind blows. What is your particular line of business? Be ready for the breeze. Put up your kite and see it sail to the sunshine. Takes a smart man to know just when to do that. It certainly does; but it is the smart man that wins in the world. All the rest are sitting under the awning wondering why luck did not stand by them, as well as by the other fellow. Half the victories of this life come from knowing when to strike. How can a man get the gift of hitting the spot at the precise moment? Isn't it, after all, a gift, and not something everyone may have? The secret of it is in the plain truth: No hound ever caught a fox unless he kept his eyes open, his ears open, his mouth open and his legs on the keen scout.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO ANSWER

Andrew Carnegie Gives His Views on The Duties of Life and Wealth. Three Ways by Which Can Be Distributed.

(By Andrew Carnegie.)

The wealthy scrooge, whose name now adorns many a library building dotted over the land, recently gave the following as his particular views on this impartial economic subject:

Surplus wealth flowing into the hands of a few men, as it does today—what is their duty? How is the struggle for dollars to be lifted from the sordid atmosphere surrounding business and the modest career?

Now, wealth has hitherto been distributed in three ways. The first and chief one is by willing it at death to the family. Now, beyond bequeathing to those dependent upon one the revenue needed for the modest and independent living, is such use of wealth either right or wise? I say, No. As a rule the almighty dollar bequeathed to sons or daughters by millions proves an almighty curse. It is not the good of the child which the millionaire considers when he makes these bequests; it is his own vanity; it is not affection for the child; it is self-glorification for the parent which is at the root of this injurious disposition of wealth. There is only one thing to be said for this mode—it furnishes one of the most efficacious means of rapid distribution of wealth ever known.

There is a second use of wealth, less common than the first, which is not so injurious to the community, but which cannot bring no credit to the donor. Money is left by millionaires for public institutions when they relax their grip upon it. There is no grace, and can be no blessing, in giving what cannot be withheld. It is no gift, because it is not cheerfully given, but only granted at the stern summons of death.

The third use, and the only noble use of surplus wealth, is this—that it be regarded as a sacred trust, to be administered by its possessor, into whose hands it flows, for the highest good of the people.

Man does not live by bread alone and 5 or 10 cents a day more revenue scattered over thousands would do little or no good. Accumulated into a great fund and expended as Mr. Cooper expended it for the Cooper Institute in New York, establishes something that will last for generations. It will educate the brain, the spiritual part of man. It furnishes a ladder upon which the aspiring poor may climb, and thus the man who does not help himself. You cannot push any one up a ladder unless he is willing to climb a little himself.

These are my views upon wealth and upon life and its duties.

MARTIN GRAN

ANSWERS D. W. GROH

Can't See the Crown and Harp Promise After an Experience of Twenty Years.

(By Martin Gran.)

Bro. Groh in the Blade for May 26, has an article in which I think he is getting little uneasy about socialism. Can't lose any sleep over it Brother Groh. Socialism is a name neither Paine nor Lincoln—it is capitalism of today that does, and is of no importance whatever. Thinks socialism promises anything like the Christian heaven with golden crown, harps etc. Funny! Isn't it? I have not heard of socialism for twenty years and not heard or read about it before I saw Brother Groh's article. Where did you get that information? After having read most all the principle books and papers on socialism I have found it to be nothing but the economic question and its promise, the full product of labor, either by hands or brains. No work, socialism would not even promise such a small thing as a wage. I am sure socialism would be but little better than the 6 per cent fellow and those who work the workers, as their business will be

out of date. The next allied persons I know of in the world is an infidel working against socialism and a prohibitionist with Bible in hand advocating prohibition. Beware of those, as they don't know what is in the text-book.

Science has already perfected cooperation in industry and science will not stop until it has perfected the ownership of same. Evolution is all the time at work. A planet can not stop on its way to the sun and humanity has the same motion.

Brother Groh says, socialists say the producing class got 42% per cent of what they produced in 1880 and 8 per cent in 1900 etc. United States Moore says in Dag Fennel, page 96, I am not a socialist, though their principle is right, but I tell you under this whole infidel business there is burning a socialist volcano that some day will throw out a lot of hot stuff that will bury this alliance of political and religious rottenness so deep that Heracles and Pompeii and Martineau will not be a circumstance.

EVOLUTION AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Nothing Great in World but Man Nothing Great in Man but Mind and Mind is Character.

(By D. K. Shute.)

The following is reproduced from Secular Thought. Its author is a Professor of Anatomy in a Columbia University and ranks high as a scholar. The article is the best contribution given to the Prethought Press in recent times. He says:

The relation of Evolution to many social problems of vital importance is a fascinating as well as extensive subject. We have only space to say that in order to understand the normal actions, as well as the abnormal ones, of the members of society, and in order, therefore, to understand and inaugurate rational methods of conducting education, minimizing pauperism, vice disease, and crime, it must constantly be borne in mind that two great streams of tendencies have come down from age in the germ-cells—what we may call the diseased and animal tendencies on the one hand, and the distinctive human and healthy tendencies on the other. The most characteristic of the human tendencies are abstract thought and reflection, and therefore the power of choice or will and altruism.

Also it must be borne in mind that environment is a force of enormous influence. The environment (which the individual may make for himself to a limited extent) may be propitious or adverse to the best human and normal tendencies. The relative preponderance of the animal or the human, the healthy of the diseased tendencies, taken in conjunction with the character of the environments, stamp man's actions as normal (and therefore right or wrong) or abnormal, and therefore irresponsible. Not to discriminate between such normal and abnormal persons is not in accordance with either common morality or common sense. Neither is it in accord with common sense, or morality, or humanity, or society to deal with his habitual criminals, paupers, and subjects of hereditary disease, in the utterly irrational manner that it does. When society takes away from a criminal his personal liberty and places him in an environment that theoretically reforms him and projects itself, why does it not take cognizance of the fact that his theories are often woful failures in practice? The criminal is often not reformed and he gets into the category of habitual offenders; but society permits him, during his intervals of freedom, to procreate his kind and send his polluted cargoes of vicious heritage to holocaust offspring. Is this humanity to these offspring? It is the grossest inhumanity! Does society protect itself by its intermittent detentions of habitual criminals? It probably has done so three habitual criminals while it is failing in its efforts to reform one. It is mostly by Nature's prematurely killing off incorrigible criminals by their diseases and intemperance, that these social pests are kept within the bounds, and not through reformation accomplished in improperly conducted prisons. It seems to us that every consideration of justice and humanity cries aloud for the destruction of the procreating class in habitual criminals. Castration should go hand in hand with detention behind prison bars. Why should the habitual drunkard, for instance, be permitted to evolve his poisoned germ cells into helpless babies, give them diseased bodies and violent moral character, that they may doom them to life-long physical ailments and moral turpitude? Re-

moval of the procreating glands should be the penalty for chronic alcoholism. In objection to this suggestion, some may prate of personal liberty. What a multitude of outrages and brutalities the broad mantle of personal liberty is often made to cover. In allowing personal liberty to an underserving individual, which more often means unbridled license to that individual, a whole generation of offspring are frequently enslaved by poverty, vice, crime, and disease in its manifold manifestations. During organic evolution Natural Selection has been incessantly on the watch for weaknesses of any kind, ruthlessly exterminating the helpless, the weak, the sick, and those that in any way are unfit. In social evolution Natural Selection has often been of necessity no less ruthless. But during social evolution characters that are unfailing more and more loving and lovable traits have so largely subordinated Natural Selection as to permit the helpless, the old sick, and the unfit, to live, thus strengthening those highest attributes of the greatest minds, viz., large minds of high character—widely informed minds, of strong will and broad sympathies. And under these circumstances we may hope that unborn generations will not be given over to total oblivion.

We may repeat, before concluding, that man is not only a creature of the present, but profoundly a product of the abysmal ages of a bygone eternity. He is not only a composite chip of many old human blocks but of innumerable geologic ancestral blocks. He has in his constitution simian, reptilian, piscine, and innumerable other chips, so to speak, and is indeed of the earth earthy; for studies in heredity not only illustrate the continuity of the human race, but also clearly indicate the continuity of this race with more lowly animals. Man has in his structure the indelible impress of the handwork of these lowly creatures. Upon him are stamped, and upon all living creatures, the forces of heredity and variation, of use and disuse, of environment and natural selection, have been and are perpetually playing, evolving him in one direction and innumerable features in other directions.

The goal of Evolution seems to be men with great minds of high character. There is nothing great in the world but man, nothing great in man but mind; and nothing, great in mind but character.

The goal of Evolution seems to be men with great minds of high character. There is nothing great in the world but man, nothing great in man but mind; and nothing, great in mind but character.

GERMANY ABOUT TO FACE RELIGIOUS WAR

The Following Significant Article as Bearing Upon the Degrading of Orthodox Creeds is From The Literary Digest.

Theological Germany seems to be arraying itself in lines of battle more and more definitely organized. Men of the advanced wing who have in the past been carrying on their propaganda through the medium of secular magazines and newspapers are being met by a determined attack in special organs of the conservatives. Since liberalism has long ago passed beyond the stage of more academic interest and even boasts of associations like the Freunde der Christlichen Welt (Friends of the Christian World) to aid in disseminating the new views, those who still abide in the old paths are feeling the need of redoubled efforts.

One of the most determined opponents of this aggressive campaign of liberalism is Pastor Dr. H. Lepsius, who has established a special periodical, the Reich Christ, to demonstrate that the advanced theology of the day may be a philosophy, but especially in its more radical features is no religion at all, and least of all the religion of Jesus Christ, that is capable of implanting and developing spiritual life in the human heart. In his extensive discussions of this scheme, in recent issues, he has emphasized the fact that in such works as Bonhoeffer's "Jesus" and Wrede's "Paul" practically all the substantial and fundamentals of Christianity are eliminated from the system. Christ is reduced to a model man, at best, "a religious genius" Paul's doctrine of atonement is an outgrowth of his own pessimism and is thus capable of a psychological explanation. In short, advanced theology is a Christian system without Christ and without redemption, and can no longer be the religious basis of the human heart. Augustine truly says that, "our hearts are without

rest until they rest in thee, O God," but the God must be an objective reality and a worthy object of trust and confidence.

What Lepsius has in this way expounded theoretically in his able journal we find transferred into active church life in the remarkable pietistic movement known as the "Gemeinschaftsbewegung" (Amalgamation Movement), an agitation which within the past year or two has spread widely in nearly all the state churches and has for its purpose the segregation of those from the state churches who feel that modern theology cannot and does not satisfy the heart, and who therefore seek this satisfaction in the worship of God and the adoration of Christ on the basis of the old evangelical views. Lepsius himself is one of the leaders of this movement, which does not officially antagonize the state churches because there are still some faithful people in them, but ask for the cooperation of all those who hold fast to salvation through the God-man Jesus Christ. Separate services are held, largely of the nature of prayer-meetings, with frequent celebrations of the Lord's Supper and public testimonials of faith and Christian experience. As this movement is expressly directed against modern theology it is declared by its advocates to be the answer of the church at large to the attempts of the advanced thought to find its way into the church and the practical proof to show that, as advanced theology enters the church, real believers must and will desert the church.

Dr. A. Stocker, too, the famous ex-cour preacher and parliamentarian, has again raised his voice to protest against the liberals remaining as part and portion of the church, because they are not of the church, having broken with all its fundamental teachings. He proposes that they leave the church in peace and organize churches of their own, in which they can profess and teach their own faith. To this demand in the "Reformation," the liberal pastor, E. Forster, has answered in a special brochure entitled, "Wir Heiligen" (We Holy Ones). He claims that liberal theology is only the legitimate development of correct Protestant principles, especially the principle of the rights of the individual in matters of faith.

The Free Speech League

invites correspondence, co-operation, and membership of all who claim rights and dare maintain them.

JOIN US. HELP US. GET OUR LIST OF BOOKS. READ THEN—PASS THEM ALONG.

Liberty talks by—Ingersoll, Wakeman, Walker, Schroeder, Pentecost, Darrow, and others. Read "Our Vanishing Liberty of Press" (five cents); and also "Do You Want Free Speech?" (ten cents) and learn

WHY YOU SHOULD ACT WITH US.

The Free Speech League, 120 Lexington Ave., New York City.

ORGANIZATION AT LAST

WANTED—All readers of the Blue Grass Blade, who know God is a myth and death the end of life, to fill out the following blank and forward it to the International Organizer, W. H. Kerr, Great Bend, Kansas, and get a nice certificate, suitable for framing, of graduation in the knowledge of God and life membership in the church of Humanity making you founders and Charter members of it.

Add 25 cents for a years subscription to its paper, "The Truth About God."

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

In the Church of Humanity.

W. H. KERR, Great Bend, Kansas.
Believing God to be a fabulous being, I enclose one dollar for Life Membership in the Church of Humanity.

Name Age

Postoffice Co. or S.

State

Sex Occupation

Nationality Language

Previous Church

When 1,000 members are enrolled a national delegate convention will be called to formally organize and incorporate the church

\$10.00 BOOK for \$1.00.



Will mail on receipt of \$1.20.
BLUE GRASS BLADE, Publishers,
Box 240, Lexington, Ky.



BLUE GRASS BLADE, Publishers,
Box 240, Lexington, Ky.



BLUE GRASS BLADE, Publishers,
Box 240, Lexington, Ky.

DEBATE IN PAMPHLET FORM.
Just out, debate on the Bible and Evolution between A. A. Snow and U. G. Wilkerson, 100 pages, 64,000 words. Price 15 cents. Arkansas Traveler, New Hope, Ark.